

# Ardrossan Ayrshires

(Continued from Page A20)

herd manager for the past 11 years, including the breeding work and bulk of the herd mating decisions.

"The Ayrshire is the smartest breed of cow," figures Mielke, who has worked with four of the major dairy breeds. "She's real sensitive and remembers people very well. A lot of people say Ayrshires are high strung. I say they're more alert."

Devoted care of these animals begins with manager Chet Billhime, who quickly moves newborn calves into the calf nursery, or "Edgar's Barn." It earned that name when Mr. Scott had it built for his wife as a birthday gift.

This metal pole building offers a unique environment for baby calves, a sort of enclosed protection but with the light and fresh air feeling of outdoors. Twenty individual wire mesh pens hold heifer calf replacements and baby bulls destined for A.I. use. Ten pens line each wall for two weeks. Then, each line of pens is moved to the middle of the concrete floor of the light, airy facility. The old location is cleaned, and disinfected, and in two more weeks the pens are moved back, for a constant two-week rotation of pens to prevent possible disease buildup.

Only fresh, whole milk is used for calf feeding - no replacer, and

no antibiotic-treated milk. When too many heifers were freshening with mastitis, Mrs. Scott feared that it was directly related to treated milk fed to them as calves. With the use of only fresh whole milk for the calves, mastitis in two-year-olds has ceased to be a problem.

Calves also get Agway's 19 percent protein TCR mix until they reach about 300 pounds, when they're switched to the TCR-2 grower. Pasturing outside on every fit day and plenty of grassy, green hay keeps heifers growing under the watchful care of the Billhimes.

At about 16 months, depending on size, heifers are pasture bred, using two or three selected young bulls. About ten percent of the heifers are A.I. mated to top breed bloodline sires. Aim is to maintain the outstanding size on this herd and to freshen in the 2 year-4 month area.

Meticulous attention is paid to milking equipment and techniques. A Universal system, with a backup in case of malfunction, runs the eight units, and a special thermometer-like gauge monitors vacuum levels at all times. An extremely low leucocyte count testifies to the attention paid to the smallest details.

But it is the cows themselves

that star at Ardrossan, powerful, typey, individuals with the will to produce both milk and fat.

Top in the nation for her age is Ardrossan RC More Sun, with a first lactation at 2-06 305d 22,870 4.4 percent and 1015 fat. Next to her in the stall is the EX-90 Classic Perlina. By Oak Ridge Flashy Classic, she's high fat producer in the herd, with a 7-09 305 day record of 30,527 4.3% and 1299 fat.



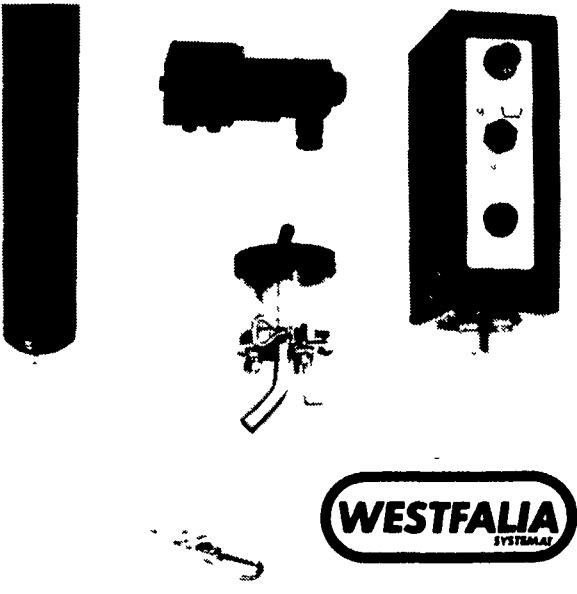
Just a whistle brings the Ardrossan herd down from the pasture and across the parking area to the stall barn for milking time.

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## MILKER REMOVERS

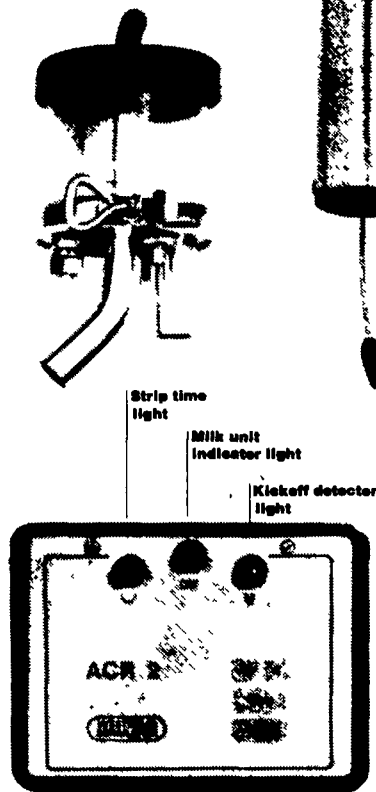
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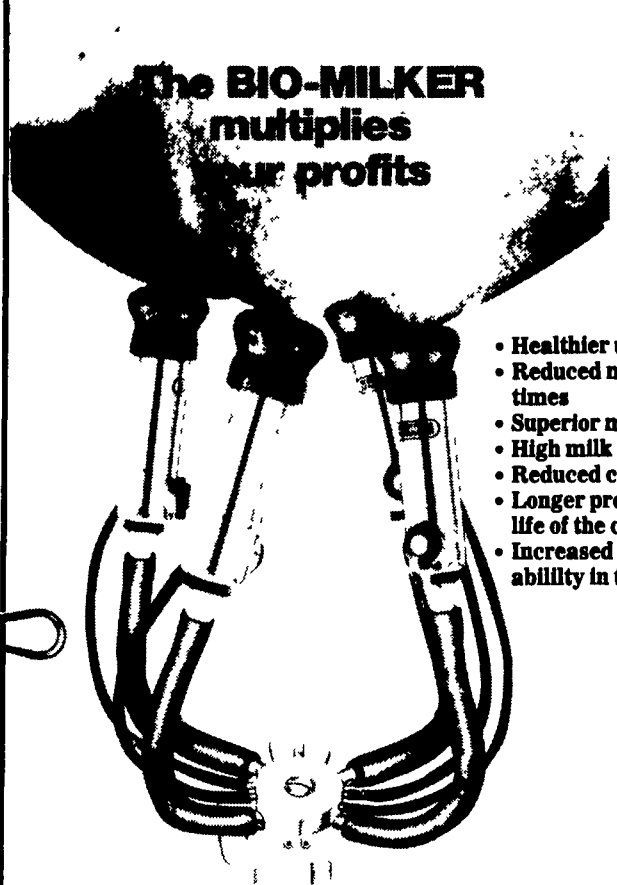
### DELUXE ACR 2

Mechanically similar to the ACR 1, this stainless steel "deluxe" automatic remover takes the process one step further. It not only features memory strip time, but also kickoff detection.



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